

Add two section headings, a section subheading, and a paragraph immediately after the new title CLOSED MIXER WORKING PROCESS, WITH STROKE-CONTROL RAM, as follows:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

A1
Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 01830112.7, filed February 19, 2001, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/281,789, filed April 6, 2001, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; the contents of both of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

A2
Page 1, line 9, add section subheading Description of the Related Art prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Closed mixers, also known as discontinuous mixers"

A3
Page 2, line 26, add section heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The present invention aims at providing a method"

A4
Page 3, line 27, add section heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Further features and advantages"

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Page 4, line 16, add section heading DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE

A5 PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "With reference to the first figure"

Delete page 13 in its entirety. Add a new page ~~13~~ after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 13 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

16 A closed mixer includes a mixing chamber, a pair of rotors, and a pressing ram. The pressing ram is movable between a resting condition, which allows introduction of material into the mixing chamber, and a working condition. A method of processing polymer-based mixtures and compounds in the closed mixer includes the steps of introducing material into the mixing chamber, moving the pressing ram from the resting condition to an upper end-of-stroke position, and moving the pressing ram from the upper end-of-stroke position to a lower end-of-stroke position. A position-time profile of the pressing ram is controlled during the step of moving the pressing ram from the upper end-of-stroke position to the lower end-of-stroke position.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-10, and add new claims 11-20, as follows:

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